



Report Highlights Importance of Ocean and Coast to California's Economy

Biodiversity Council to Hold First California Ocean and Coastal Economic Summit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 21, 2005

CONTACT: Sandy Cooney
Alexandra Tollette
(916) 653-9205

Long Beach, Calif. – An economic report with far reaching implications will be released July 22 by the Resources Agency during the first California Ocean and Coastal Economic Summit. The summit will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Cesar Chavez Community Center, 401 Golden Avenue in Long Beach, Calif. The report, *California's Ocean Economy*, is the most comprehensive of its kind in the country and provides conclusive evidence that the state has the most significant ocean economy in the nation.

"This report reaffirms the critical role that the ocean plays in the economic health of California and this nation," said Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman. "It underscores the fact that our efforts to manage California's ocean and coastal resources not only benefit the environment, but play a significant role in maintaining and enhancing California's economic engine."

The report is a key provision of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's ocean action plan. It was written by Dr. Judith Kildow, California State University Monterey Bay, and Dr. Charles Colgan, University of Southern Maine. The findings detail critical areas that include California's coastal economy, employment and gross state product; California's ocean economy versus other coastal regions; the growth in coastal tourism and recreation and commensurate decrease in wages; high coastal population density and an increase in inland population; and regional growth related to ocean economic trends.

According to the report, the total Gross State Product of California's ocean economy in 2000 was approximately \$42.9 billion. California's ocean economy was responsible for nearly 700,000 jobs in 2000.

"Our beaches, ports, and other coastal and ocean resources provide critical goods and services for California and the nation," said Chrisman. "We must continue California's ongoing leadership to protect and manage these national treasures for the benefit of current and future generations."

For more information, and to download the report when it is released, go to:
<http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/>